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No. 115

## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
July 10, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRANCIS ROONEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 8, 2018, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

### AMERICA'S PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS—OUR AMBASSADORS ABROAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, America's Peace Corps volunteers are our angels abroad. They represent the very best about America. They give years of their lives to help people they have never met in some of the most remote areas of the world.

Often this means putting their own safety at risk, expecting the United

States to have their backs. But right now we are not doing enough to protect them while they are overseas. This will change with the Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act sponsored by myself and JOE KENNEDY of Massachusetts.

Many returning volunteers, like Sara Thompson, struggle to receive the medical care they need while they are in a foreign country. Sara's troubles began when the Peace Corps prescribed a medication called mefloquine to protect her from malaria. But during her service in Burkina Faso, she began to have horrific nightmares and struggled with her mental health. When she turned to the Peace Corps for help, the medical officer excused her symptoms by simply saying: You are not adjusting well.

The nausea and nightmares continued. With no support from the Peace Corps, she started to research the problems. It was then she realized the malaria medicine the Peace Corps had given her was making her sick. But today she still deals with these medical issues and feels abandoned by our Peace Corps.

Peace Corps volunteer Nick Castle died in rural China after an inefficient, under-equipped, and unresponsive Peace Corps-led medical team made gross mistakes in treating his illness.

The Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act establishes criteria for in-country medical doctors and ensures that they have the resources they need to take care of our volunteers. Giving our volunteers the best medical care possible is an absolute necessity when they are serving America.

There is more. A brave volunteer told me recently about the daily sexual harassment she experienced while she served overseas. In broad daylight, men would grope and threaten her as she walked home from school. One afternoon at the market, the cashier threatened to break into her house in the

middle of the night and sexually assault her. So she reported this to the Peace Corps, and they assured her that these men were just joking. No surprise, the harassment continued.

Finally, she made the decision to return to America. She could no longer bear the constant hostile environment. The Peace Corps recorded her reason for leaving as difficulty in adapting to the culture. In other words, the sexual assaults were her fault.

Are you kidding me?

Sexual assault and harassment should never be excused as joking and should never be brushed off as a cultural norm.

Mr. Speaker, as a former judge and co-chairman of the Victims' Rights Caucus, I would point out that sexual assault is never the fault of the victim.

This bill creates new trainings and safeguards to protect volunteers from sexual assault and harassment. It also makes the Office of Victim Advocacy a permanent establishment.

Then there is Peace Corps volunteer Jennifer Mamola. Early one morning, Jennifer was walking with two friends to a bus stop. Out of nowhere, a drunk driver ran into them. One volunteer was killed. Both of Jennifer's legs were broken. So she returned home to America still bedridden and loaded on pain medication. She faced an uphill battle of endless bureaucracy to receive treatment and surgeries. After months of fighting government bureaucrats, she was finally granted treatment.

Far too often volunteers fall between the cracks and are forced to pay exorbitant medical bills out of pocket until the Department of Labor decides to cover their medical situation. So this bill would provide medical coverage to returning volunteers while they wait for the Department of Labor to give them the medical benefits they deserve.

The changes in this bill will go a long way in keeping our volunteers safe.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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The bill provides Peace Corps volunteers critical information regarding the country that they are going to serve in. It also requires the Peace Corps to provide volunteers with access to medical doctors while they are overseas. And it makes the Sexual Assault Advisory Council and Office of Victims' Advocacy permanent. It also extends volunteers' medical benefits upon their return home until their coverage kicks in from the Department of Labor.

Mr. Speaker, we must not continue to send our volunteers out into the world without adequate protections against harm. Give them a qualified medical doctor, and we must have an effective healthcare system to take care of them when they return. Our government should fight for our Peace Corps volunteers, not fight against them.

And that is just the way it is.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BANKS of Indiana) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of this people's House with wisdom and the courage to address the pressing difficulties of our time. You know each one personally, through and through, and how they relate with one another.

Help them to know You. Impel them by Your spirit to act justly and walk humbly with You. May their actions and those of our government be marked by kindness and decency, especially toward those who are most vulnerable among us.

Inspire all of our citizens, as well, to look first to their blessings, and then charitably, to the work of this people's House. Each Member chooses to serve another day; may each serve with honor and merit the appreciation of those whom they serve.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### NATO: BELLY UP TO THE BAR

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week President Trump will join our allies for the important NATO summit. At the top of this list must be countering Russia's aggression and imperialism against our allies and the U.S.

But to achieve this, everyone must contribute to the cause. Of the 29 nations within NATO, only 8 members—including the United States—are meeting the 2 percent of GDP pledge for defense spending.

For years, there has been a historical problem of excuses made for non-compliance by some of our NATO allies. President Trump is right to bluntly encourage our friends to meet their obligations to deter Czar Putin.

Neighbors in Texas ask me: Why does the United States spend more money defending some European countries than the countries do themselves?

Fair question.

Mr. Speaker, I support NATO, but our NATO allies would do well to stop criticizing the U.S. commitment to NATO and, rather, fully fulfill their commitment to our mutual defense. It is time to belly up to the bar and pay their share.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the 29 countries and whether they are meeting their 2 percent guideline or not.

#### NATO MEMBERS MEETING 2% GUIDELINE

1. United States
2. United Kingdom
3. Greece
4. Estonia
5. Poland
6. Lithuania
7. Latvia
8. Romania

#### NATO MEMBERS NOT MEETING THE 2% GUIDELINE

1. Albania
2. Belgium
3. Bulgaria
4. Canada
5. Croatia
6. Czech Republic
7. Denmark
8. France
9. Germany
10. Hungary
11. Italy
12. Luxembourg

13. Montenegro
14. Netherlands
15. Norway
16. Portugal
17. Slovak Republic
18. Slovenia
19. Spain
20. Turkey

#### REUNITE IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, a Federal court has ordered the Trump administration to reunite every child under 5 years old who is separated from his or her family by today. Unfortunately, the Trump administration has no plan for family reunifications and will fail to reunite as many as half of those children who were taken from their parents. This is completely unacceptable.

Last week I visited some of those young children, one who looked about 6 months old and many who were 3 and 4. At the facility I visited, caseworkers there were calling detention facilities around the country to locate those parents. They had to call the facilities to try to find the parents. Many of them did.

But it is clear that the administration had no plan other than to separate these kids from their parents as a tactic to try to dissuade people who are seeking shelter from violence from coming to the United States. Shame on them.

This will be a dark period in our history. It is a sad day.

#### RECOGNIZING BETTY WALKER

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Betty Walker of Roaring Gap, North Carolina. This remarkable and talented woman has been the coordinator for the Alleghany Memorial Hospital Thrift Shop for 15 years.

Betty began volunteering at the Thrift Shop in 2000 and became coordinator in 2003. During her time as coordinator, Betty has expanded and renovated the Thrift Shop in addition to managing its volunteers.

The Alleghany Memorial Hospital Thrift Shop opened in 1991 and has raised nearly \$1 million for Alleghany Memorial Hospital. Those funds are extremely important in this small county.

In 2011, Betty and the shop's volunteers received the Governor's Award for Volunteer Service, which recognizes the top 20 volunteers in North Carolina.

Betty Walker is an extremely dedicated volunteer, a role model for us all, and a pillar in her community. Alleghany County is fortunate to call this hardworking citizen one of its own.